



May 2, 2019

Barry Thom, Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97232-1274

**CALIFORNIA WATERFIX – WITHDRAWAL OF BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT,
WITHDRAWAL OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION, AND
REQUEST TO WITHDRAW BIOLOGICAL OPINION**

Dear Regional Administrator Thom:

Today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) withdrew its approval of the California WaterFix project (WaterFix). This letter is to notify the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and DWR withdraw the WaterFix Biological Assessment submitted to NMFS on July 29, 2016, as amended, and their request for formal consultation on WaterFix pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, submitted to NMFS by letter dated July 29, 2016. In addition, because WaterFix is no longer being pursued by DWR, Reclamation and DWR jointly request NMFS to withdraw its biological opinion for WaterFix that it issued on June 16, 2017.

Reclamation and DWR thank NMFS and its staff for their time and energy devoted to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and WaterFix.

Sincerely,

Karla A. Nemeth
Director
California Department of Water Resources

Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,
Mid-Pacific Region,
U.S. Department of the Interior

cc: Chuck Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Michael Jewell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gary Lippner, Delta Conveyance, California Department of Water Resources
Kenneth M. Bogdan, Office of Chief Counsel, California Department of Water Resources



May 2, 2019

Paul Souza, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

**CALIFORNIA WATERFIX – WITHDRAWAL OF BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT,
WITHDRAWAL OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION,
AND REQUEST TO WITHDRAW BIOLOGICAL OPINION**

Dear Director Souza:

Today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) withdrew its approval of the California WaterFix project (WaterFix). This letter is to notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and DWR withdraw the WaterFix Biological Assessment dated July 2016 and submitted to USFWS on July 29, 2016, as amended, and their request for formal consultation on WaterFix pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, submitted to USFWS by letter dated July 29, 2016. In addition, because WaterFix is no longer being pursued by DWR, Reclamation and DWR jointly request USFWS to withdraw its biological opinion for WaterFix that it issued on June 23, 2017.

Reclamation and DWR thank USFWS and its staff for their time and energy devoted to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and WaterFix.

Sincerely,

Karla A. Nemeth
Director
California Department of Water Resources

Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,
Mid-Pacific Region,
U.S. Department of the Interior

cc: Chuck Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
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